

In the Claims:

Please rewrite the following claims in amended form:

1. (Twice Amended) An airbag intended to protect an occupant of a vehicle in which the airbag is employed, the airbag formed by joining two base cloths constituting an upper piece and a lower piece to form a substantially closed concave shape, comprising:

an upper base cloth having a first rear face portion opposed to an occupant of a vehicle in an inflated state of the airbag, an upper face portion continuously and substantially perpendicularly disposed with the first rear face portion, and two first side portions each connected to the first rear face portion and the upper face portion so that the upper piece is formed in a generally box shape, wherein the upper piece comprises an upper joining line defined between the first rear face portion and the first side portion;

a lower base cloth having a second rear face portion opposed to the occupant in the inflated state of the airbag, a lower face portion continuously and substantially perpendicularly disposed with the second rear face portion, and two second side portions each connected to the second rear face portion and the lower face portion so that the lower piece is formed in the generally box shape, wherein the lower piece comprises a lower joining line defined between the second rear face portion and the second side portion; and

wherein the lower joining line is smoothly curved in such a manner that a middle portion of the lower joining line projects toward an abdomen of the occupant,

B₁ thereby forming a bulging portion at the second rear face portion.

3. (Amended) An airbag according to Claim 1,

wherein the lower joining line has a plurality of arc shape portions in which each adjacent two arc shape portions have different radii and join smoothly with each other.

B₂
4. (Twice Amended) An airbag intended to protect an occupant of a vehicle in which the airbag is employed, the airbag formed by joining two base cloths constituting an upper piece and a lower piece to form a substantially closed concave shape, comprising:

an upper base cloth having a first rear face portion opposed to an occupant of a vehicle in an inflated state of the airbag, an upper face portion continuously and substantially perpendicularly disposed with the first rear face portion, and two first side portions each connected to the first rear face portion and the upper face portion so that the upper piece is formed in generally box like shape, wherein the upper piece comprises an upper joining line defined between the first rear face portion and the first side portion;

a lower base cloth having a second rear face portion opposed to the occupant in the inflated state of the airbag, a lower face portion continuously and substantially perpendicularly disposed with the second rear face portion, and two second side portions each connected to the second rear face portion and the lower face portion so that the lower piece is formed in the generally box shape, wherein the lower piece comprises a lower

joining line defined between the second rear face portion and the second side portion; and

wherein the lower joining line is smoothly projected outwardly in its middle portion, thereby forming a bulging portion at the second rear face portion of the lower base cloth, so that the second rear face portion of the lower base cloth is more extended toward the occupant than the first rear face portion of the upper base cloth, thereby approaching the abdomen of the occupant.

6. (Amended) An airbag according to Claim 4,

wherein the lower joining line has a plurality of arc shape portions in which each adjacent two arc shape portions have different radii and join smoothly with each other.